

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article having a longitudinal direction, a transverse direction, a vertical direction substantially normal to both the longitudinal and transverse directions, and a body side, the absorbent article comprising:

- a) an absorbent core having a body side surface, the absorbent core comprising an outer absorbent member having a void centrally disposed therein, the centrally disposed void open toward the body side of the absorbent article, and a central absorbent member disposed over the centrally disposed void of the outer absorbent member and extending into the centrally disposed void; and
- b) a wicking barrier disposed between the outer absorbent member and the central absorbent member, the wicking barrier comprising a vertical component and a horizontal component, the vertical component spanning a vertical distance between the outer absorbent member and the central absorbent member, and the horizontal component spanning a horizontal distance on the body side surface of the absorbent core,

the absorbent article further comprising a topsheet, wherein the topsheet is provided with at least one fold to form an elevated runoff barrier.

Claims 11-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article having a longitudinal direction, a transverse direction, a vertical direction substantially normal to both the longitudinal and transverse directions, and a body side, the absorbent article comprising:

- a) an absorbent core having a body side surface, the absorbent core comprising an outer absorbent member having a void centrally disposed therein, the centrally disposed void open toward the body side of the absorbent article, and a central absorbent member disposed over the centrally disposed void of the outer absorbent member and extending into the centrally disposed void; and
- b) a wicking barrier disposed between the outer absorbent member and the central absorbent member, the wicking barrier comprising a vertical component and a horizontal component, the vertical component spanning a vertical distance between the outer absorbent member and the central absorbent member, and the horizontal component spanning a horizontal distance on the body side surface of the absorbent core,

wherein the central absorbent member comprises a composite having multiple vertical layers of barrier material alternating with layers of absorbent material.

Claims 15-37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article having a longitudinal direction, a transverse direction, a vertical direction substantially normal to both the longitudinal and transverse directions, and a body side, the absorbent article comprising:

- a) an absorbent core having a body side surface, the absorbent core comprising an outer absorbent member having a void centrally disposed therein, the centrally disposed void open toward the body side of the absorbent article, and a central absorbent member disposed over the centrally disposed void of the outer absorbent member and extending into the centrally disposed void;

- b) a wicking barrier disposed between the outer absorbent member and the central absorbent member, the wicking barrier at least in part is liquid pervious and comprising a vertical component and a horizontal component, the vertical component spanning a vertical distance between the outer absorbent member and the central absorbent member, and the horizontal component spanning a horizontal distance on the body side surface of the absorbent core; and
 - c) at least one of a topsheet and a backsheet disposed directly adjacent the absorbent core and
- wherein the absorbent article comprises a topsheet provided with at least one fold to form an elevated runoff barrier.

Claim 39. (Canceled)